



US009636907B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Shinkawa et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,636,907 B2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 2, 2017**

(54) **LIQUID DISCHARGE APPARATUS,
CONTROL METHOD OF LIQUID
DISCHARGE APPARATUS, AND CONTROL
PROGRAM OF LIQUID DISCHARGE
APPARATUS**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 347/19
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2004/0223027 A1 11/2004 Shinkawa et al.
2006/0071964 A1* 4/2006 Oku B41J 2/0451
347/19
2007/0103500 A1* 5/2007 Ootsuka B41J 2/0451
347/19

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP 2004-276544 A 10/2004

Primary Examiner — Shelby Fidler

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Global IP Counselors,
LLP

(71) Applicant: **SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION**,
Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventors: **Osamu Shinkawa**, Nagano (JP);
Toshiyuki Suzuki, Nagano (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Seiko Epson Corporation**, Tokyo (JP)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/991,153**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 8, 2016**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2016/0279929 A1 Sep. 29, 2016

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Mar. 27, 2015 (JP) 2015-065458

(51) **Int. Cl.**

B41J 2/045 (2006.01)

B41J 2/165 (2006.01)

B41J 2/21 (2006.01)

B41J 2/14 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **B41J 2/0451** (2013.01); **B41J 2/04541**
(2013.01); **B41J 2/04581** (2013.01); **B41J**
2/04588 (2013.01); **B41J 2/04593** (2013.01);
B41J 2/04596 (2013.01); **B41J 2/16579**
(2013.01); **B41J 2/2142** (2013.01); **B41J**
2002/14354 (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A liquid discharge apparatus includes a discharge unit including a piezoelectric element that is displaced in response to a drive signal, a pressure chamber of which an inner pressure is increased or decreased by the piezoelectric element, and a nozzle which is in communication with the pressure chamber and discharges liquid filling the pressure chamber, depending on an increase or a decrease in the inner pressure of the pressure chamber, a detection unit that detects residual vibration occurring in the discharge unit according to a potential change of the drive signal that is supplied to the piezoelectric element, and a determination unit that determines a discharge state, in which the detection unit outputs a first detection signal and a second detection signal, and the determination unit determines the discharge state, based on the first detection signal and the second detection signal.

9 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets

